

REMARKS

By the present amendment, each of original claims 1-39 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. New claims 40-65 have been added by the present amendment, wherein claims 40, 44, 47, and 49 are independent.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 11-25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 34, and 36-39 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have taken this allowable subject matter into consideration when drafting the new claims of the present application and thus believe that each of the new claims of the present application are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

NEW CLAIMS

New independent claim 40 is directed to a piston-chamber and relates, at least somewhat, to original claims 11 and 19 of the present application. Applicants believe that new claim 40, along with all claims dependent thereon, is allowable over the prior art of record.

With regard to new claim 44, this claim is directed to a piston-chamber combination, which relates, at least somewhat, to a original claim 9 of the present application. Applicants further believe that new claim 44, along with all claims dependent thereon, is also allowable over the prior art of record.

New claim 47 is directed to a piston-chamber combination which is also believed to be allowable over the prior art of record and which has been provided to provide further protection to the various embodiments of the present application.

Finally, with regards to claim 49, this claim is also directed to a piston-chamber combination which is believed to be allowable over the prior art of record. Again, this claim has also been provided in an effort to provide further protection for various embodiments of the present application.

Accordingly, with regard to each of the new claims 40-65, including new independent claims 40, 44, 47, and 49, these claims have been redrafted by taking into consideration the subject matter of original claims 1-39. New claims 40-65 have been drafted so as to be in better form for U.S. Practice, and have been drafted so as to be in what is believed to be an allowable form, taking into consideration the prior art rejections made by the Examiner, including the rejections over the Fabel et al. (U.S.P. 2,710,077) and Derr (U.S.P. 5,577,579) patents. As the Examiner will understand from a review of each of new claims 40-65, these claims have been drafted so as to be in allowable form. Accordingly, allowance of each of new claims 40-65 of the present application is earnestly solicited.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to claims 26-28 for minor informalities. This objection has been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 26, 29, 30, 33, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sabel et al. This rejection has been rendered moot in view of cancellation of the rejected claims, and is further inapplicable the new claims 40-65 in

connection with the present application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-10, 30, 33, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Derr. This rejection has been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of the rejected claims in connection with the present application. Further, new claims 40-65 are allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection and allowance of claims 40-65 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of new claims 40-65 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

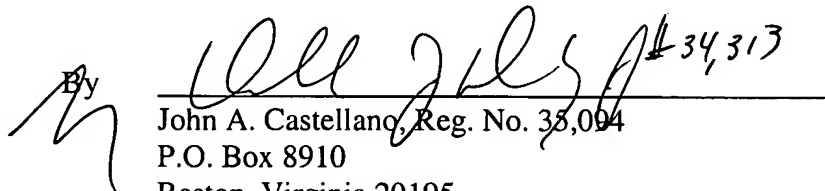
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$950.00 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

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JAC/cah